United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Illinois, Indiana
Michigan, Minnesota
Ohio, Wisconsin

# Skinner Landfill Cleanup Progresses

**West Chester, Ohio** **May 2002**

## Cap, Slurry Wall, Trenches Included

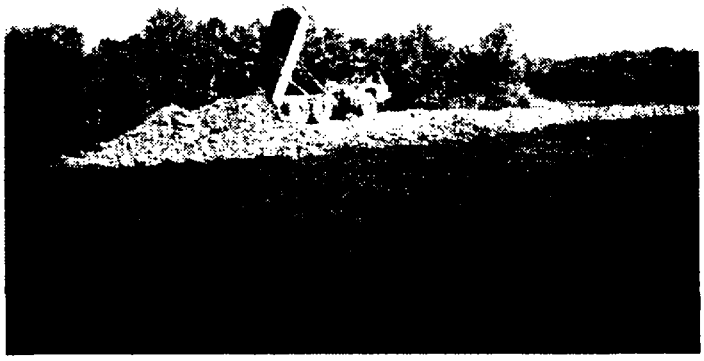
The Skinner Landfill cleanup has been underway since April 2001. Since then, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has installed:

- a layered cap over the existing landfill to stop rain, snow and other water from seeping into the landfill and carrying contaminants to the ground water below. The cap consists of a 6 to 12 inch-layer of compacted soil directly on top of the waste; a geo-composite layer above the compacted soil (made of stiff plastic netting sandwiched between two layers of a burlap-like fabric); a manufactured clay-like barrier liner; a layer of thick plastic; another geo-composite layer; and a layer of approximately 24 inches of topsoil and grass.
- a slurry wall south of the landfill. The slurry wall is a solid clay underground barrier built to prevent ground water from draining toward the East Fork of Mill Creek.
- three interceptor trenches north of the slurry wall to collect the ground water and prevent it from entering the East Fork. Three pumps in the trenches will be used to pump collected ground water to the Butler County Sewer System.
- monitoring wells to ensure that the interceptor trenches are capturing site ground water.
- vents on top of the landfill to collect and release gases created by the natural decay of organic material found in the landfill.
- a drainage system around the landfill to direct surface water runoff to the East Fork.

Deed restrictions to prevent future land use that would disturb the landfill cap will also be put into place before the cleanup will be deemed complete.

Although the cleanup began in spring 2001, work that disturbed the landfill waste and soil was done primarily during the summer as an extra precaution to avoid exposing students from nearby Union Elementary School to contaminants. During all excavation and earth-moving operations, the air surrounding the landfill was continuously monitored. This included taking air samples downwind of the work area and near the school. EPA contractors closely monitored the work which was done by several companies determined to be potentially responsible for the contamination.





*Contractors construct the final clay cover over the landfill.*

West Chester Township has also been involved in overseeing the cleanup. Fire Chief Tony Goller was appointed by the trustees to serve as their representative. He attended monthly status meetings and shared information from these meetings with the trustees. Since the chief has taken the hazardous waste training required for access to Superfund sites, he was able to monitor the cleanup. In addition, representatives from EPA and the companies attended West Chester Township board meetings at the trustees' request to provide updates. They also sent draft documents, such as the site health and safety plan, to the trustees for their review.

## Ground-Water Monitoring to Continue

Monitoring wells to continue ground-water testing were installed throughout the landfill. The ground water will be monitored by the companies until 2031 to ensure that the landfill cap, trenches and slurry wall remain in working order. They will collect and analyze ground-water samples on a quarterly basis for two years after the construction of the cap and ground-water interceptor system has been completed. After the two-year ground-water monitoring period, samples may be taken once or twice each year.

A high water level within the landfill will increase the likelihood of ground-water contamination. Therefore, if after the two-year monitoring period, the ground-water

level remains, or is expected to remain, above the waste, a second slurry wall north of the landfill will be required. The concern is that if water is getting into the landfill from the ground water beneath the landfill on the north end, it could continue to contaminate ground water as it flows south toward the slurry wall. However, if the ground-water level in the landfill has dropped, or is expected to drop, below the waste material, the north slurry wall will not be necessary.

## Information Repositories

Review detailed information about the Skinner Landfill Superfund Site at the information repositories:

West Chester Public Library
7900 Cox Rd.
West Chester, Ohio

West Chester Township
9100 Centre Point Dr.
Suite 280
West Chester, Ohio

## Contact Information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## Web Site

Updates can also be found on the following Web site:

**www.epa.gov/region5/sites/**

Click on Ohio and scroll through the list to find Skinner Landfill Superfund Site.



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